

closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father who is in secret, *and thy Father who seeth in secret, himself will reward thee openly.*" Now there may be discouragements. The Christian's petitions may be apparently disregarded, but not so in reality. Blessings may indeed, for wise reasons, be withheld; we often ask for things which, if bestowed, would prove curses to our souls; yet if God, in denying these gifts, consults our advantage more than our wishes, *the prayer itself* shall not be cast aside, but recorded and perpetuated in heaven, and when secret wickedness shall be held up to the scorn and detestation of assembled worlds, the secret supplication shall meet with a public approval and an everlasting reward.

Hammersmith.

CHRISTIAN HEROISM :

ORIGIN OF THE MORAVIAN MISSIONS.

In 1731, a negro called Anthony, who had contracted an acquaintance with the servants of Count Zinzendorf, informed them that he had a sister in the island of St. Thomas in the West Indies, who earnestly desired to be instructed in the principles of religion; but as she had neither time nor opportunity for it, she often besought the Great God to send some person to shew her the way of salvation. Anthony having soon after obtained liberty from his master to visit Hernhutt, again declared, in the presence of many of the congregation, the desire of his countrymen, and especially of his sister, for Christian instruction. But he added, that the negroes, in consequence of their accumulated labours, could have no opportunity of religious improvement unless their teacher was himself a slave, to instruct them in the midst of their daily avocations. This representation, and what the Brethren who had been to Copenhagen related

concerning the state of Greenland, made a deep impression on many of the congregation; and several of them declared their willingness to go and labour among the poor heathen. *Leonard Dober*, in particular, and *Tobias Heopold*, one of his most intimate friends, felt so strong a desire to proceed to St. Thomas, that they offered not only to go to that island but, with a philanthropy which perhaps has scarcely a parallel in the annals of history, *to sell themselves as slaves*, in order to make known the Redeemer to the negroes, particularly to the poor woman who so ardently longed for Christian instruction, should they find no other way of accomplishing their purposes. Some of the brethren expressed a similar desire to proceed to Greenland, and shortly after missions were undertaken to both countries.

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,—Several excellent pieces on *prayer* have at different times appeared in your useful miscellany, but I have looked in vain for some of a *reform* character; and as you are aware, from a previous communication sent you (which by the way appears to have been laid up on the shelf), that I am friendly to reformation, I take the liberty of troubling you once more, hoping my present communication will be more fortunate than the former—at the same time assuring you that you are at perfect liberty to reject any or all that I write, provided you will favour me by taking up the subject.

Prayer is one of the principal and most solemn acts of public worship, and ought always to be performed "with the understanding," as well as "with the spirit;" if otherwise it is not to edification. In approaching the King of Kings we are enjoined not to be "*rash* to utter words before Him," which implies that our